Temperature for the past twenty-four hours: High, 43, at 3:15 p.m. yesterday; low, 30, at 1 a.m. today.

# TWO BIG BATTLES **RAGING IN THE EAST** ARE DEEMED VITAL

Result of Russ-German Conflict May Influence Duration of War.

**BOTH FOES ARE CHECKED** AT DIFFERENT POINTS

Forces of Kaiser Are Making Concentrated Attack on Enemy's Center.

AUSTRIA IS SENDING AID

Armies Move North From Cracow Region-Petrograd Claims Offensive in Galicia Is Still Under Way.

LONDON, November 20 .-Both in London and Berlin the present stage of the campaign in Russian Poland is regarded as highly important; Germany's advance in the Warta-Vistula country is being watched with intense interest. Petrograd, however, while, of course, vitally concerned, seems to be only indifferently interested.

Army headquarters in Petrograd announces that two great eastern front, one in line between Czenstochowa and Cracow, apparently extending along the railroad between these two points, and the second in the Warta-Vistula region.

It is believed the result of the fighting in the east will have a tions elsewhere and on the duration of the war.

## Both Armies Checked.

A general survey of the reports received here from all quarters conveys the impression that the German ad-vance on the Vistula has met at least with a temporary check, while the in invasion of East Prussia has mffered a like fate near Angerburg chiefly of vertical lines of wire entanglements, are reported to be very

strong.

Berlin declares that concentric at-tack is being made on the Russian centack is being made on the Russian center, the German armies coming from
the west and the northwest, while Austria is sending a force north from the
Cracow region. Petrograd, however,
states that the offensive in western
Galicia is still under way and that
Cracow is believed to be invested on
three sides, leaving only one line of
rail communication open.

## Austrians Claim Captures.

The retreat of the czar's forces through Lipno and Neawaml con-tinues, according to official advices from Berlin. The German attack south of Plock continues with progress while terlin also states that there has been o decision in the fighting around Lodz ,000 Russians, eighteen machine guns nd field pieces have been captured in

Hussian Poland.

The Russian advance guard, consisting largely of cavalry, which advanced right on to the German frontier after the battle at Warsaw, met superior forces of the enemy and has been compelled to fall back more than half the distance covered in the advance.

## Can Choose Own Ground.

The Germans are sending very strong rand Duke Nicholas, the Russian com nander-in-chief, however, can choose is own ground for the battle, and it is

#### Merciless War Is Best. Says von Hindenburg, Who Sees Defeat of Russians

BERLIN, via The Hague and London November 20.—"The Russians hav numbers on their side, but numbers one are not the decisive factor. In the present stage of the war less than ever before we are not afraid of Rus-sian numerical superiority. At Tan-menburg the Russians outnumbered us three to one, yet the result was a notable German victory." These are the views of Gen, von Hin-

These are the views of Gen. von Hindenburg, now facing the great Russian war machine, as expressed in conversation with the Berlin correspondent of the Neue Freie Presse of Vienna. "The Russians," said Gen. von Hindenburg, "are good soldiers, and observe discipline, but discipline of another sort than that of the Austro-German, which is based on thinking and the execution of command, while the Russian discipline is a mere blind the Russian discipline is a mere blind the Russian discipline is a mere blind. he Russian discipline is a mere bline

## Russians Have Learned Much.

"The Russians have learned much nce the Japanese war, particularly in he science of intrenching, but when he ground is frozen they will no longe be able to dig themselves in. be able to dig themselves in. Then they will have a bad time of it. That is one of the advantages the winter campaign will bring us.

"It is a sad but good thing that war and sentimentality do not go together. The merciless conduct of war is in the end the most merciful, because war is soonest ended thereby.

"The war with Russia is now chiefly question of whose nerves will snaparst. If Austria and Germany have stronger nerves—and they have them they have them they have them

# S!LENCE STILL SHROUDS TURK SHOT AT U. S. FLAG

Neither Ambassador Morgeuthau Nor Capt. Decker Has Sent Explanation From Ottoman Government.

No further report came to the State or Navy departments today on the fir-Turkish forts at Smyrna upon the launch of the American cruiser Tennessee. Officials were awaiting dispatches from Ambassador Morgenthau r Capt. Decker, and meanwhile maintained their confident attitude that the ncident would be explained satisfactorily by the Turkish government.

President Wilson conferred last night with Secretary Daniels of the Navy Department and Acting Secretary Lan-

Department and Acting Secretary Lansing of the State Department.

The President summoned the two secretaries to learn if there had been any word from Turkey shedding light on the reasons for the firing, but found that neither the cables nor the wireless had yielded a syllable of information. The European war has practically paralyzed cable communication to Asia Minor, and such messages as are received come by roundabout routes about five days late.

May Use British Wireless. If there is continued delay it is robable that the American government will ask the British admiralty for the ourtesy of its wireless in the Mediter-

courtesy of its wireless in the Mediterranean to reach the American ships.

The President and his cabinet are assuming that the shots fired at the American launch were merely a friendly warning, giving the customary notice that the port was mined and closed. Even if the shots were fired with hostile intent, the Washington government believes the Ottoman government would render apology promptly for unauthorized acts of subordinate officials. In no quarter here is the incident or its consequences regarded as serious. in no quarter here is the incident or its consequences regarded as serious, for the United States has no quarrel with Turkey. The American government is caring for Turkish subjects and interests in France and Great Britain, and there has been every evidence of friendliness in the relations between Washington and Constantinople.

### Anxious for Explanation.

In the absence of definite information, however, the President is anxious to have the incident cleared up and is battles have developed along the awaiting with much interest the arrival of messages explaining in detail just what occurred.

When the White House conference ended, both Secretary Daniels and Mr. Lansing said no further inquiries had been directed to the American cruisers or the American ambassador at Con-stantinople, the talk being largely a detailed review of previous messages covering the general situation in Tur-key and Asia Minor.

# very marked effect on the operations elsewhere and on the dura-GERMANS OF ATROCITIES

Cite "Massacre at Tamines," "Sack of Dinant" and "Outrages in Luxemborg Province."

shot by the Germans in the village of ner, the larger number of fractures also occurring in winter.

Referring in detail to this alleged massacre the report describes how a group of between 400 and 450 men were collected in front of the village church. As shooting them down with riffes proved too slow, German officers ordered up a machine gun, and those not killed by the bullets from this weapon were finished with bayonet thrusts.

According to the commission's report, more than 700 of the inhabitants of Dinant were killed. Eighty-four of these were shot to death on Parade square and fifty others outside a church from which they had been driven by the Germans.

The report alleges that over 1000 size.

Referring in detail to this alleged also occurring in winter.

A statement procured by the committee sommittee committee the from the Pullman Company shows that for the years 1910 and 1913, inclusive, 73 persons were killed in accidents to wood-only 6 were killed in all-steel cars, and 241 were injured in accidents to wood-on cars, while only 77 were injured in steel cars.

The committee suggested that there should be legislation which will provide state or federal supervision of material used on railroads, both as to rails and rolling stock, which it calls "equipment."

Early Fall of Belgrade Is Predicted—Aus-rain Reported to the committee the firm who the should be legislation which it calls "equipment."

Early Fall of Belgrade Is Predicted—Aus-rain Reported to the committee the firm who the see at presson make him change him cherch make him cherch make him change him cherch make him cherch make him change him cherch make him change him cherch make him cherch make him change him cherch make him change him cherch make him cherch make

Germans.

The report alleges that over 1,000 similar executions occurred in the province of Luxembourg.

### GEN. VON VOIGHTS-RHETZ OF GERMAN STAFF IS DEAD

robable he will select it as far away room the German lines of communications as he can.

The Russians are showing much acquartermaster general of the German The Russians are showing much activity in the Carpathians, their object being to prevent the Austrians from retiring into Hungary. In fact, it is stated that they have already cut off 800,000 Austrians, who will now be compelled, if defeated, to retreat westward.

# A Service to Readers

A certain store in Washington has told The Star readers of all the important news of that store for every shopping day in the year for over twenty-

· The fullest information is given through The Star by the Washington merchants about all that is newest and most interesting in the stores. This makes The Star the best possible guide for shoppers.

Everybody' should shop early before the Christmas rush and tomorrow is none too soon. The morning is always the best time of day to shop.

# NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

Owing to the great amount of work necessary in preparing for next Sunday's issue advertisers are earnestly requested to co-operate by furnishing copy as early as possible this evening or tomorrow morning.

# METHODS TO REDUCE DANGER TO TRAVEL

Topics Discussed Today by Railway Commissioners.

LEGISLATION IS ASKED ON STATE-MADE RATES

Statistics Presented Showing Number of Accidents, the Causes and Aggregate of Losses.

Many reports of interest to the pubic were presented at this afternoon's ession of the convention of the National Association of Railway Com-

ports there was a lengthy debate on resolutions offered yesterday by William D. Williams of Texas, providing that the interstate commerce commission shall not have the right to absolve any carrier from obeying a state-made law. Shelby M. Taylor of Louisiana offered a substitute resolution provid-ing that intrastate rates established by state authority shall be considered easonable.

The resolutions were debated for son time yesterday. Underneath them lay the question of state rights to make railroad rates as against federal conmerce commission, as well as an argument on the merits of the celebrated 'Shreveport rate cases" decided by the Supreme Court. Patrick J. Farrell, solicitor of the interstate commerce explained the "Shrevepor rate cases" to the commissioners.

tion of the association today, by divided vote, recommended to Congress the enactment of a law providing that the interstate commerce commission should not interfere with the operation of any

able.

An effort was made to refer the whole matter, involving state rights, back to the committee, with direction to report to the convention next year. On a roll call of states the motion was defeated, 22 to 11. By an aye-and-no vote the Williams resolution then was adopted.

Statistics of Accidents. One of the most striking of the re-ports presented was that by C. C. Mc-Chord, a member of the interstate com-merce commission, who is chairman of the association's committee on rails and equipment.

Approaching the subject of rails and quipment from the standpoint of accithe ten years from 1904 to 1913 there were 127,371 train accidents in the United States, caused by collisions and derailments on steam railroads.

These accidents were responsible for 8,805 deaths, the injuring of 127,542 LONDON, November 20, 12:30 p.m.—
The Belgian commission of inquiry into alleged German violation of the laws and customs of war has issued another long report, which is published today by

and customs of war has issued another long report, which is published today by the British official bureau.

It covers what is described as the "massacre at Tamines," "the sack of Dinant" and the "outrages in the province of Belgian Luxembourg." The report says that more than 650 persons were wheels are affected in the same manner, the larger number of fractures

#### Report on Rate-Making. The committee on rates and rate-mak-

ing of the association, which is headed by Emory R. Johnson of Pennsylvania referred in its report to a bill pending commerce commission power to approve or disapprove stock and bond is sues of railways and other public utili-

"Formerly." this report says, "the time ago. His appointment caused at the time the erroneous statement to be circulated in Holland that Gen. Von Voights-Rhetz had been chosen as the eventual successor of Gen. Von Moltke as chief of the general staff. ties for capital improvements without ncreasing their rates, so that the rela-

tion of rates to securities has become a very pressing question."

James S. Harlan, chairman of the interstate commerce commission, who is also chairman of the association's committee on shippers' claims, presented a report which shows that 78 per cent of the claims received by railroads for goods lost or damaged in transit were adjusted during the period covered from January 1 to June 30, 1914. Of these claims, 88 per cent were paid, 9.8 per cent were declined and 1.6 per cent were withdrawn. were withdrawn.
"These percentages," says the report, "tend to refute to some extent the assertion often made that carriers purposely evade payment of a large proportion of claims."

Electric Railway Accounts.

The report of the committee on electric railway accounts urged the importance of electric railways providing for depreciation accounts, saving "It is quite evident that the people

(Continued on Second Page.)

passable by rains.

LONDON, November 20, 1:57 p.m.—
The house of commons today formally passed the vote for the supplementary army estimate, which provides for an additional army of 1,000,000 men.

This is the additional million men mentioned by Premier Asquith in the house of commons last Monday. It is quite apart from the territorials, and the distinct of the result of the continued of the war office, and the distinct of the large of the war office, and the distinct of the large of the war of the actual total.

The present idea of the war office, and the distinct of the large of the large

other for foreign service.

With regard to the suggestions that Lord Kitchener's army of recruits should be treated unlike the professional soldiers, Mr. Tennant remarked: "The chief characteristic of Lord Kitchener is not sentiment and not is additional to the 1,100,000 men said Referring to the supplementary estinate Harold J. Tennant, undersecretary of state for war, said the official

sional soldiers, are remarked. "The chief characteristic of Lord Kitchener is not sentiment, and not even persuasive eloquence of these advocates of differential treatment would make him change his decision in a matter on which he feels strongly." view was that this further million men ought to be sufficient, so far as the government was able to see at pres-

COMMONS PASSES ARMY BILL

TO RAISE 1,000,000 MORE MEN

Additional Estimate Thought to Be Suffi-

cient to Crown British Arms With

Success in European War.

# trian Bombardment Reported to Have Begun.

LONDON. November 20.—Servia is taking steps to remove the government from Nish to Uskub, if it becomes necessary, according to an Atheba dispatch.

Concerning the Austrian operations against the Servians, a statement given out in official quarters in Berlin says: "Special dispatches from the Servian arena of the conflict to Berlin papers predict the early fall of Belgrade. Coincident with the Austrian entry into Valjevo, the commanding officer at Semilin sent an emissary to Belgrade for tress asked an hour for consideration. He did not reply at the end of that time, and the bombardment by the Austrians was commenced.

"The Servians and the bombardment by the Austrians retired seven miles to the Servians retired seven miles to the southeast of Valjeve, where fighting of the Austrians. More than in the southeast of Valjeve, where fighting of the Austrians. More than in the southeast of Valjeve, where fighting of the Austrians. More than in the southeast of Valjeve, where fighting of the Austrians. More than in the southeast of Valjeve, where fighting of the Austrians was commenced.

The Servians had no time to bring off or to destroy their guns or supplies, great and the Austrians. More than in the hands of the Austrians. More than in the hands of the Austrians and the Austrians are treated by an outfanking movement from Riolubara, and a drovatiting artillery five completed the discomfiture of the Servians, who, by a college of the Chilean coast November 1, when a German squadron sank the British and vision of Valjeve, Heratinas devotation today. The Russians advent counts from the Brazilian government to enter drydeck, and to receive the most urgent repairs. The Russians were continuing their retreat in Poland, but that in eastern Prussia they had captured an unoccupied fort.

Cold and wet weather has officers say, speeding at only 16 knots and the western arena of war so that time the vessel will imake a stand at Arandielovatz.

The Servians had no time to bring off or to destroy their guns or suck the capture

LONDON, November 20.-Servia is | The Vienna Neue Freie Presse cor-

# TURKISH COLUMN DEFEATED, OFFICIAL CLAIM OF RUSSIANS vance.

# Rains Hinder Operation of Troops—British Claim Victory on the Shat-El-Arab River.

"It is a quite evident that the people have learned the lesson that they cannot expect to obtain adequate service from a public utility that pays out its entire surplus in dividends and reserves nothing to take care of the necessary replacements that sooner or later will have to be made."

The report of the committee on telephone and telegraph rates and service has this to say:

"The times demand the use of a plant to its maximum efficiency, and public service commissions should be by legislation placed in a position to force utilities to the maximum use of their plants and thereby avoid duplications in the future.

"This will have the effect of not only insuring reasonable rates to the public in future and proper returns to the owners, but will leave the capital (Continued on Second Page.) tween the armies of Russia and Tur- of the zone of operations. arekh. In the valley of Gltychai a Shat-El-Arab river and in the Persian Turkish column was defeated and gulf:

LONDON, November 20 .- Fighting be- There is no activity in other parts

Battle on Shat-El-Arab River The official press bureau has issued the following report from the general commanding the force operating on the

# STATE OF UNREST AT MEXICO CITY

Gen. Obregon Entrains Troops and With Government Offices Moves to Orizaba.

ATLANTIC

SOUTH

MAY LEAVE GARRISON TO PROTECT CAPITAL

Constitutionalist Agency Here Notified That Hostilities Have Again Begun-Villa Moving South.

American Consul Silliman, in a dispatch night, reported that Gen. Obregon's troops were entraining for Orizaba and movin the offices of the government with them. Consul Silliman added that the city was in a state of decided unrest. He did not indicate whether the Obregon troops were vacuating the city to leave it undefended before the troops approaching from the orth or whether his forces were to be replaced with other Carranza troops mov ing down from Queretare under Gen. Gonzales, one of Carranza's chief cup-

Mr. Silliman added that railroad com munication northward and also between the capital and Vera Cruz was interrupted. Previous reports have left it to be understood that sufficient gar-rison would remain in the capital to maintain order and prevent entrance of the Zapata forces until Gen Villa's forces were in the immediate vicinity tinues, but with diminished fury. and ready to enter, when the Carranza troops would withdraw.

ranza troops would withdraw.

Acting Secretary Lansing conferred today with Acting Secretary Breckin-ridge of the War Department and Brig. Gen. Scott, chief of staff, over details of the evacuation of Vera Cruz. It was decided that the customs collected during the period of occupation, supposed to aggregate more than \$1,000,000, would be brought away by Maj. Gen. Funston, to be held in this country for delivery to the government which is finally recognized.

#### Notified of Hostilities.

R. Zubaran Capmany, head of the Vashington constitutionalist nere, announced receipt of the follow ing telegram today from Acting Min-ister of Foreign Affairs Isidro Fabela: "Villa having violated the armistic agreed to with Gen. Pablo Gonzalez while the latter was conferring with the first chief in an effort to avoid by The French war office anall possible means the renewal o nounced today that in the region bloodshed, and in view of the fact tha of the Argonne forest, where severe of Villa's unpatriotic conduct, Genengagements have been in prog-

Gonzalez made known today that hostilities had broken out."
"Gen. Obregon is military commandant of Mexico.City; Gen. Anténio Villareal of the states of Coahulla and Nueve Leon, Gen. Manuel Dieguez of the states of Jaliaco, Colima and Michoacan, Gen. Ramon Iturbe of the states of Sonora, Sinaloa and Tepic; Gen. Candido Aguillar is chief in the east and Gen. Jesus Carranza in the south."

The allies attacked the Germans in the neighborhood of Ver-Safety for Priests and Nuns. dun. An official German state-

Gen. Funston last evening telegraphed ment today said that this attack Secretary Garrison that he would arnuns now at Vera Cruz to the United German officials in Berlin. An official States by a government vessel. He said statement issued this afternoon dehe previously had been informed by the clares that an attack of the French at priest in charge of the refuges at Vera Combre, near Verdun, has been recruz that they would be taken out of In Belgium the diminution of activity has become pronounced. There was almost a total absence Mexico under church auspices President Kelley of the Catholic of infantry attacks in the north-Church Extension Society, Chicago, wa west, and even the artillery fire,

informed of Gen. Funston's latest mes-

ship Disabled in Sea Fight to

Make Emergency Repairs.

RIO JANEIRO, November 20 .- The

here November 17 to repair the dam-

crowns (about \$170,000,000), the an-

stimulated public investments. The im-

perial family and various organizations

were the largest subscribers. Banks and

LONDON, November 20.-England's

new war loan, the largest in her history,

scription list before Tuesday unless there

Russian Chair in Chicago University.

CHICAGO, November 20 .- A chair of

officially known.

industrial corporations also invested

uncement of Austrian victories over the

which recently has been unusual- sage. ly severe, has lessened. **BRITISH CRUISER GIVEN** The Germans, on their left PRIVILEGE OF DRY DOCK wing, have, reoccupied a section, of the town of Chauvencourt, Brazilian Government Permits Warwhich they recently blew up with

Either the censorship or the absence of decisive events was re- British cruiser Glasgow, which arrived sponsible for the fact that from ages sustained in the naval battle off the other fields of battle, in Rus- the Chilean coast November 1, when a sian Poland, Turkey, Servia and German squadron sank the British Persia, there came only frag-obtained permission from the Brazilian

mines after the French had forced

WAR NEWS IN BRIEF.

engagements have been in prog-

ress for the last few days, three

vigorous attacks had been made

by German infantry. These as-

saults, it is said, were repulsed.

had been repulsed.

their way in.

locks at Nieuport, which the allies opened to flood the lowlands and hold back the German ad- Servians, it is stated, having greatly

The outcome of yesterday's naval battle in the Black sea is still in doubt. No fresh confirmation was received to reconcile the already has been covered, according to reconflicting claims of Russia and

Troops Protect Working Miners. CAMP GARRISON, PRAIRIE CREEK, Ark., November 20 .- Under the protection of United States troops, operation of Bache-Denman mining property was resumed today in Hartford valley by non-union labor.

Millionaire Sugar Refiner Dies.

# FLOODS AND COLD BRING MISERY TO **ARMIES IN BATTLE**

Wintry Gales Chill Troops in Flanders, While Disease Is Constant Menace.

**FURY OF THE FIGHTING** IS GREATLY DECREASED

Infantry Attacks Nearly Impossible, While Artillery Is Less in Action.

CLAIM SUCCESSES

Said to Have Repulsed German Three Times in Argonne Region. Berlin Reports Victory at Combre.

LONDON, November 20.-Out on the water-soaked, storm-ridden fields of Flanders the battle of weeks between the armies of the kaiser and the allies con-However, the sufferings of the troops in both great armies have been increased.

Regiments of infantry are forced to wallow in mud, now stiffened by wintry gales which sting to the marrow. Troops in trenches, by virtue of their comparative inactivity, are feeling the cold more than the terrors of the enemy's shells. Disease is a constant menace. The vast flooded region has brought infantry engagements practically to a standstill, but the heavy artillery of both the allies and the Germans continues its constant booming. Official dispatches of today indicate that even this has been reduced.

## Three Attacks Repulsed.

France reports that three attacks of German forces in the Argonne region have been repulsed, but there has been little if any change in the position of the combating forces in other sections of the western arena of war. Germans have reoccupied the burned section of Chauvencourt, but this is deemed with-

out importance. range to bring the Mexican priests and their movements difficult is admitted by

## Will Combat Waters.

Large bodies of German engineers have been seen passing toward the front, according to information received from Bruges, Belgium, and it is be-lieved that the Germans are planning to cross the inundated country by scientific engineering methods. The waters of the North sea are sweeping inland through the six big locks at Nieuport.

Raid on Locks Repulsed.

It is learned here that the Germans November 18, attempted a raid on these Their attack, which was conducted in a number of armed automobiles, was

The fortifications, which have been constructed all through West Flanders for use in case of an eventual German retreat svidently now are completed, for the troops employed in their contruction have all gone to the front.

The snow in Flanders has caused much illness among the men in the

# **ALL MONEY OF ENEMIES** TO BE PUT IN TRUST

England Plans to Withhold All Credits Until the End of the War.

LONDON, November 20, 2:47 p.m.-The attorney general, Sir John A Simon, introduced in the house of commons today an interesting amendment to the act covering trading with the enemy. He said his aim was to

stop the transmission of money or credits which would be advantageous to the enemy. Everybody holding property in trust, such as dividends, profits, etc., belong-ing to enemies of the empire in Germany, Austria and Turkey would benceforth be required, under penalty. to pay these profits to a public frustee

The attorney general explained that indiscriminate confiscation was not intended.
"We are preserving the enemy's pro-

erty until the end of the war," he said. "What will happen to it at the end of the war can very properly be decided The Bank of England, however, reports that applications have not yet been actually computed, so that their total is not It is not intended to close the sub-

# PRINCE VON BUELOW TO BE **GERMAN ENVOY TO ITALY**

PARIS, November 20.—A dispatch from Rome to the Fournier Agency states that Prince von Buelow has been appointed German ambassador to Italy. Recent dispatches from Rome have in-

"November 17 our troops drove out of an intrenched position about 4,500 of the enemy, capturing two guns and many prisoners, camp equipment and ammunition.

"Our casualties were three officers killed and fifteen wounded, and in the killed and fifteen wounded, and in the killed and about 300 wounded."

Millionaire Sugar Refiner Dies.

NEW YORK, November 20.—Frederick D. Mollenhauer, millionaire sugar refiner, died suddenly of heart disease to the established this winter at the University of Chicago by gift of Charles E. Crane of this city, it was announced to day. Samuel N. Harper, late lecturer in the school of Russian studies at Liverpool University, England, will occupy the new chair. A feature of the school of Russian studies at Liverpool University, England, will occupy the new chair. A feature of the lating schedy in the school of Russian studies at Liverpool University, England, will occupy the new chair. A feature of the lating schedy, was mentioned as likely to take the post, in view of its importance at this crisis.